

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Monday, March 22, 2004, from 2 p.m.–5 p.m. in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that David Sinsky of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's and tomorrow's debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## RECOGNITION OF THE 91ST MEETING OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 97, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Garden Club of America.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 97) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

### S. CON. RES. 97

Whereas The Garden Club of America is holding its 91st annual meeting in Washington, DC April 24 through 27, 2004;

Whereas The Garden Club of America has 195 member clubs in 40 States and the District of Columbia, representing more than 17,000 members;

Whereas since its founding in 1913, The Garden Club of America has become a recognized leader in the fields of horticulture, conservation, historic preservation, and civic improvement, and an influential organization in the protection of America's environment; and

Whereas in our Nation's Capital, The Garden Club of America was instrumental in the founding of the National Arboretum, the development of the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution, and the

creation and installation of the Butterfly Habitat Garden which now graces The National Mall at the National Museum of Natural History: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commends The Garden Club of America for the many contributions it has made in our Nation's Capital and in communities across the United States, and sends its best wishes on the occasion of its 91st annual meeting in Washington, DC, April 24 through 27, 2004.*

## APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 108–199, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission: Leo J. Hindery, Jr. of New York and Gayle E. Smith of Washington, DC.

The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 108–199, Section 104(c), 1(A), appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program: Ms. Christine Vick of Washington, DC.

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 23. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with the majority leader or his designee in control of the first half of the time and the Democratic leader or his designee in control of the remaining time; provided that at 11 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 1637, the JOBS bill; provided further that Senator GRASSLEY be recognized at that time.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, on this side we believe we are entitled to an up-or-down vote regarding the most important issue facing many Americans; that is, overtime. I just returned from our recess when I met with the fire and police personnel in the State of Nevada. They all brought this up. We know there is an effort not to have a vote, the reason being this amendment will pass. When the Harkin amendment is offered and there is a vote on it, it will pass. The majority doesn't want to vote on this because it is embarrassing to the President who has no support from the American people on this overtime issue.

Also, we have other amendments—not many but a few amendments—one dealing with China. Senator SCHUMER has wanted to offer an amendment for a long time on this bill dealing with international trade, among other things.

Also, there is an amendment my friend, the distinguished senior Senator from Illinois, is going to speak on dealing with a tax credit for insurance premiums and medical malpractice. I support my friend from Illinois on this issue. It would not solve the medical malpractice issue, but it is something the physicians in this country approved, and it is the right thing to do. It would help alleviate some of the medical malpractice pressure we have around the country.

I say to my friend through the Chair, I can't guarantee cloture will not be invoked, but I think it is very doubtful cloture will be invoked.

I want the RECORD to reflect that on this side we are not trying to amend this bill to death. We have a handful of amendments, and we will agree to a list of finite amendments. That has been explained to the two managers.

The way things are headed, this bill is going to go down, and it is not good for the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say in response to my good friend from Nevada, as he knows full well, we have already voted on this once. We voted on it last year. Having continuing votes on the same subject strikes some Members in the Senate, on this side of the aisle, as not exactly the best way to move forward. But even if it is insisted by the other side that we have repetitious votes on the same issue, I say to my friend from Nevada there will be other authorizing bills coming along shortly after the JOBS bill which will be open to such amendments, and this underlying bill happens to be one I believe Senators on both sides of the aisle think needs to pass. In fact, the imposition of penalties against U.S. companies has already begun—my understanding is March 1.

I think we all understand the need to pass this bill to prevent the escalation of those penalties against U.S. business here in the coming months.

If there were not another opportunity, I say to my good friend from Nevada, to have further repetitious votes on the same issue, I might understand it. But there will be other authorizing bills coming up shortly that will give the other side an opportunity to offer and insist on more votes on the very same subject.

I hope cloture will be invoked. The right of the minority is still there to offer these nongermane or irrelevant amendments on other authorizing bills that will be coming along very shortly.